

School District Voters Go to Polls On Tuesday

TUESDAY SCHOOL ELECTION ASKS AMOUNT WHICH ALREADY HAS BEEN SAVED TAXPAYERS

Torrance voters will be asked on Tuesday, July 22, to approve a request of the Torrance Board of Education for permission to increase the elementary school tax rate from 90 cents per \$100 assessed valuation to \$1.40 per \$100, for one year only.

This money, which will amount to from \$150,000 to \$165,000, already has been saved the taxpayers of the district, but it is needed this year to offset the lack of State Aid for Schools funds which go to Los Angeles schools this year.

The state average daily attendance will amount to about \$180,000, and they will go to Torrance during the second year of operation, starting July 1, 1948. This is because the state allocates the money on the basis of the "past year's average daily attendance." Torrance did not exist as a separate school district last year, so it cannot draw the support.

However, in asking the taxpayers for the 50 cents per \$100 increase, it is pointed out that the Torrance schools already have saved the taxpayers this amount.

By a lawsuit against Los Angeles, they prevented the removal of 11 bungalows from Torrance, costing \$140,000 each.

In the same lawsuit, they prevented Los Angeles from selling and appropriating the proceeds from the sale of 15.85 acres of land in North Torrance valued at \$45,000, and a block of land at Fern avenue school valued at \$6,000.

This saving amounts to \$161,000, or approximately 50 cents per \$100 assessed valuation.

Thus, while the taxpayers are asked to approve the increase Tuesday, it actually will cost them nothing, since the bungalows and real estate are necessary for school use this year.

The 50-cent tax increase amounts to only \$5.00 on a house of \$1,000 assessed valuation, or about 1-1/3 cents per day.

Redondo Union High School district is asking that its present \$1.00-high school rate be extended.

El Camino College district is asking for 25 cents per \$100 for capital improvements, to pay for buildings at the Alondra park campus of the college. The amount the college is asking will be saved in bond interest, since the college will be built on a "pay-as-you-go" basis.

Voting is at Torrance elementary school, Perry school and Walteria school for the elementary election, and also at the high school for the high school and college.

Polls will be open from 7 a. m. to 7 p. m., and transportation is being provided by calling 1653 or 645.

School District Polling Place Limits Given For Torrance Voters

For those who are in doubt as to where they should vote in the special school district tax election on Tuesday, July 22, the following precinct boundaries are given:

The Perry School, located at 180th st. and Prairie ave., will be the polling place for all electors living in Precinct No. 1 and the El Nido precinct. The area is bounded as follows:

On the south by 190th st. and Western ave., and on the west by 174th st. and a westerly direction to Illinois st. and/or Gramercy place, thence in a northerly direction on Illinois st. to Redondo Beach Blvd.

On the north by Redondo Beach Blvd. between Illinois st. and/or Gramercy place and Hawthorne ave.

On the west by Hawthorne ave. between Redondo Beach Blvd. and 182nd st., thence in a westerly direction on 182nd st. and/or Electric st. to Inglewood Ave. to the point of beginning at Inglewood ave. and 190th st.

The Torrance Elementary School, located at 22001 Martina ave., will be the polling place for the electors residing in precincts Nos. 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 13, 14, 15 and 17. The area is bounded as follows:

On the north by 190th st. between the westerly boundary of the City of Torrance and the easterly boundary of the City of Torrance on Western ave., thence south on Western ave. to the southernmost point of the boundary of Lomita and the City of Torrance, thence westerly to Walnut st., thence in a northerly direction on Walnut to the mid-point between Chestnut and Bea-

con and/or 238th st. and 240th st., thence in a westerly direction on the boundary between the City of Torrance and Lomita to Narbonne ave., thence south to 240th st. and continuing west on the boundary line between the City of Torrance and Lomita to the northwest corner of the boundary between the City of Torrance and Lomita, thence in a northwesterly direction to Lomita Blvd. to Madison ave., thence in a northerly direction to Sepulveda Blvd., thence easterly on Sepulveda to Madrona ave., thence northerly on Madrona ave. to Torrance Blvd., thence westerly on Torrance Blvd. to Hawthorne ave., thence northerly on Hawthorne ave. to Huntington st., thence westerly on Huntington st. and the boundary between the City of Torrance and the County of Los Angeles to Huntington st. at a point on a line with Susanna st. to the westerly boundary line between the City of Torrance and Redondo Beach thence northerly to Beryl street and northeasterly to the boundary line between the City of Torrance and Redondo Beach, thence northerly to 190th st. to the point of beginning.

The Walteria Elementary School, located at 24209 Ward st., will be the polling place for the electors residing in precincts Nos. 12 and 16. The area is bounded as follows:

On the south by the boundary line of the City of Torrance beginning at the Pacific Ocean and following in an easterly direction to the easterly boundary of the City of Torrance and Lomita, thence in a northerly direction on the City of Torrance-Lomita boundary to Lomita Blvd., thence in a westerly direction on

CITY FILES APPLICATION FOR PURCHASE OF AIRPORT; DEED FREE OF CHARGE DUE

Torrance City Council, at a special meeting Monday afternoon, authorized Mayor J. Hugh Sherety, Jr., to sign the city's application for purchase, at no cost, of the 480-acre Army-developed flight strip on 101 highway, in accordance with advertisements of the War Assets Administration.

Authorities of the W.A.A. have prepared the city's application for signing, in accordance with regulations, and it is expected that a deed to the airport will be forthcoming in the near future.

The city now operates the field as Torrance Municipal Airport on a right-of-entry basis, although it maintains the 89.9 acres comprising the runway and adjacent land on a perpetual interim permit. At the time of acceptance of this permit, the airport was named officially as Zamperini Field, in honor of Capt. Louis Zamperini, famed war hero and Olympic miler of Torrance.

Some details to be worked out include possession of buildings on the airport, it was said. J. G. Caldwell, president of Veterans Emergency Housing, Inc., reported last week that his corporation had received title to 34 old barracks buildings on the 25-acre site at the southeast corner of the field as well as to eight buildings on the airport proper for conversion into temporary veterans' housing.

The eight buildings on the airport proper now are in use by the city, aviators and the 578th Combat Engineers battalion of the California National Guard on permission from the city.

E. Y. Tarkington, manager of the airport, said that the city would work out this detail in connection with its application for purchase and would surrender the buildings on the airport proper.

In a report on progress of the airport, since the city took over on May 28, Tarkington said the following had added planes to the field:

Carl Alford, BT-13; Geo. Batchelor, C-47; R. W. Dickerson, Fleet; R. J. Franklin, Stearman; Ellsworth Griffin, BT-13A; Jerome Helperin, BT-13A; L. G. Howe, Waco J6; Hal Lunderville, BT-13; Joseph C. Shull, AT-6; Harry Smith, Stearman and Sailplane; Jack J. Vidmar, BT-13; West Coast Aircraft, Ltd., Navy amphibian; James C. Wilson, J3 Cub.

A recent arrival is a P-38 which is to be entered in the Cleveland Air Races.

"The operators on the field now consist of Wm. Pike of West Coast Aircraft, Ltd., who is operating a repair shop," Tarkington said.

"Mr. Hanson is operating an airplane repair shop at present in the south half of the hangar and is at this time endeavoring to select a location to erect a repair shop and parking area with parking capacity for approximately 6 to 8 airplanes in order to get a certificate of approval for a

(Continued on Page 3-A)

Business, Industrial Life Of City Endorses School Tax Increase Here

Some sixty business, industrial and professional men of Torrance this week gave wholehearted endorsement of the proposal of the Torrance elementary schools to increase the maximum tax rate this year from .90 to \$1.40 per \$100 assessed valuation. Their endorsement said:

"We have given the tax proposal of the Torrance Board of Education careful consideration and feel that their request to raise the tax for one year from 90 cents to \$1.40 is a reasonable request in view of the needs of the schools in providing educational services for the children of Torrance during this coming year. Therefore, we endorse this proposal without reservation for the 1947-48 school year.

J. Hugh Sherety Jr., James W. Post, R. J. Deinger, H. E. Greenwood, Bob L. Haggard, Grover C. Whyte, Elaine Walker, W. E. Bowen, C. Earl Conner, B. J. Michels, George Easterly, Arthur B. Cowie, Opal Easterly, M. L. Fenwick, F. L. Parks, Mrs. Addie W. Parks, James A.

Evans, Martha W. Evans, Russell Lund, F. G. Dominguez, Sam Levy, O. A. Kresling, Elizabeth Cowie, Irving Winther, George Gorth Jr., F. J. Carpenter, Tom F. McGuire, P. C. Hamlin, John H. Stroh, Charles T. Rippey, Mark McVaine, Alden W. Smith, George M. Miller, P. Loreng, Angus E. McVicar, Harry R. Moritz, Joseph S. Piazza, Bayard T. Whitney Jr., Lin D. Branum, Joel R. Klink Jr., R. J. Rogers, Lester T. King, John T. Bradford, L. S. Neal, V. G. Mott, Gertrude Mott, Edna Winther, Charles B. Mitchell, H. C. Barrington, D. Colville, Albert Isen, Henry Berkowitz, A. P. Palmer, Frank S. Selover, E. M. Ashton, Merlin R. Cook, George H. Colburn, W. T. Greene, N. H. Cuel, J. E. McMaster, J. R. Winters, Henry Bays, John H. Ritchie, George P. Thatcher, Frank Jakubowski.

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GOOD SCHOOLS THIS YEAR! The Added Cost Only 1 1-3 Cents A Day

The people of Torrance this year entered a new business. Engaging in a series of elections starting with the adoption of the City Charter last August, the people determined to take over the job of educating their children after years of neglect of the schools of Torrance by the Los Angeles school districts.

They overwhelmingly approved the City Charter, two to one. They voted to withdraw immediately from the Los Angeles high school district and affiliated with Redondo Union high school district, ten to one.

They indicated their faith in the people who sponsored the independent schools for Torrance movement by electing them as the first Torrance Board of Education.

Now, they have come to the full realization of their responsibility, and they are taking it seriously.

Whether or not their plans shall succeed the first year is purely a matter of finances.

Torrance gets no State School Support this year, because it did not exist as a school district last year and therefore had no "average daily attendance" upon which to base the support. Efforts to change the law to make this State School Support available the first year were not successful. The money, some \$180,000, goes to Los Angeles.

Torrance will be short of financing its schools for the first year, on the basis of the .90 maximum rate now permitted by law, from \$150,000 to \$180,000, as a result.

The picture of the school problems of Torrance changed materially this year. Where estimates of an enrollment of 1500 students in the elementary schools had been made both locally and by Los Angeles, it has been found that it will exceed 2000. This will create an additional cost of \$110,000.

Los Angeles was able to claim the furniture and personal property in the school buildings of Torrance. Replacing this is costing nearly \$80,000.

While Torrance schools would have been able to "get by" had the enrollment been 1500 instead of 2000, and had the furniture and fixtures been left intact, such is not the case.

Standing between a good school system and educational program for the children of Torrance the first year is a question of a five-dollar bill per \$1000 assessed valuation of Torrance, approximately 1 1/3 cents per day, for one year.

The Board of Education is asking the right to levy a \$1.40 tax for the first year only, an increase of 50 cents from the present 90 cent maximum, to provide the schools for the first year which the people have indicated they desire.

Only in this way can the shortage of some \$150,000 to \$190,000 caused by failure to get state aid be overcome. Only in this way can the desires of the people be accomplished.

The people have indicated their determination to have good schools for the children of Torrance.

Shall we have good schools the first year? One and one-third cents a day per \$1000 assessed valuation will accomplish this end.

Let us show our continued determination to have good schools, and vote "Yes" on the measure to increase, for one year only, our elementary school tax maximum.

Vote "Yes" at the polls Tuesday.

75 Percent Of Rights-Of-Way For Western Avenue Extension Secured

Approximately 75 percent of the right-of-way needed for widening and extension through Torrance of Western avenue has been obtained, and all the necessary property for the thoroughfare will have been secured by Jan. 1.

Such was the information given to the Torrance Herald this week by Robert I. Vandegriff, senior right-of-way agent for the Department of Public Works, Los Angeles, who is representing Los Angeles, Torrance and Los Angeles County in securing the necessary property for the 100-foot boulevard extension.

He said that the improvement has a "A" priority, and will be constructed with state gas tax funds, with cities of Los Angeles and Torrance, as well as the County of Los Angeles, participating.

The Board of Supervisors has informed the City Council it had approved allocations totaling \$17,872 for this improvement of Western avenue.

The money will be used to assist in the purchase of the needed right-of-way.

One side of Western avenue, south from 182nd st. to 246th st., is in Torrance and the other side is in Los Angeles. Los Angeles County area extends from 246th st. south to Pacific Coast highway.

It is contemplated that the thoroughfare be constructed on a 100-foot right-of-way from Torrance Blvd. south, and then from 182nd st. to Torrance Blvd., the present highway be widened to a 100-foot roadway.

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SURPLUS OF \$133,095 IN CITY FUNDS EXPECTED NEXT YEAR UNDER PROPOSED BUDGET

The City of Torrance should end the present fiscal year with a surplus of \$133,095 before paying off debts to the Torrance Water District, those who have analyzed the proposed 1947-48 budget of the City Council and preliminary assessed valuation figures said yesterday.

The budget, considered in public hearing last night, calls for a total expenditure of \$368,403 this year.

The revenue estimate for the year is \$445,498. These figures show an excess in revenue over expenditures of \$78,095.

However, the budget income estimates apparently are based on an assessed valuation of \$28,000,000.

The County of Los Angeles reported this week that the assessed valuation will approximate \$33,500,000.

Thus, the excess in revenue of the City of Torrance over expenses estimated in the budget will amount to \$133,095, based upon a tax rate about the same as that of last year.

The assessed valuation of Torrance, the City officials said, increased \$5,515,855, without public utility valuation gains being considered.

It was pointed out, that while a maximum legal limit tax rate of \$1.00 per \$100 assessed valuation contemplated on a \$28,000,000 assessed valuation would produce \$280,000, a similar rate on a \$33,500,000 valuation would produce \$335,000, or \$55,000 more.

This, added to the excess revenue over expenditures estimated in the budget, \$78,095, makes a total estimated excess of revenue over expenses of \$133,095.

And these figures do not take (Continued on Page 5-A)

TORRANCE ASSESSED VALUE UP 18.5 PERCENT; TOTAL FOR TAX PURPOSES \$33,500,000

The assessed valuation of all property subject to taxes in Torrance has increased more than 18.5 per cent this year, according to information given to the Torrance Herald by Supervisor Raymond V. Darby, chairman of the Board of Supervisors, and it appeared that the total will exceed \$33,500,000.

An increase of \$5,515,855 in the assessed valuation of Torrance was reported, and without allowing for increases in the value of public utilities in the city, this would boost the total assessed valuation to \$32,456,555.

Last year the assessed valuation of public utilities was \$2,750,820 in Torrance. Should the same ratio of increase be found, this would mean another gain of some \$508,000, it is pointed out.

It is known that the Southern California Edison Company has increased its holdings in Torrance materially in the past year, for power lines.

Torrance City School District, which extends outside the confines of Torrance, will have an additional tax value of approximately \$125,000, it was said. This consists of the El Nido district which was placed in the school district by the Board of Supervisors.

The figures are subject to adjustment by the Board of Equalization. Chairman Darby said, but no appreciable change is anticipated.

On the basis of the figures, the City Council will be able to raise approximately \$335,000 with a \$1.00 tax rate this year.

Using the same figures, the elementary schools will be able to finance its program for the first year with the proposed \$1.40 rate which would raise approximately \$470,000. The maximum rate under the law is \$0.90 per \$100 assessed valuation, and voters Tuesday will pass on a request for an additional 50 cents which will compensate for the loss of State School Support for the first year (it goes to Los Angeles this year) and thus make up the necessary \$165,000 needed to finance the budget.

Without this, a curtailed program will be necessary the first year.

Darby told the Herald that the estimated county tax rate is \$1.54332, a reduction of 3408 under last year. The assessed valuation of the county went up nearly 25 per cent, and now exceeds \$4,000,000, according to Darby.

Expenses of conditioning the buildings to a point where they meet State school building standards, is to be borne by the college district. Bids to renovate the temporary buildings have been received and it is expected that the contract will be awarded at the budget meeting of the College Board of Trustees July 17.

Announcement of the awarding of a contract to the Vinel Company of Alhambra for the construction of a metal warehouse was made by the Board at its regular meeting in El Segundo high school, Tuesday July 8. At the same time approval was given for the purchase of twenty-five typewriters on the basis of a bid from the Woodstock Company at \$86.50 per machine.

Dr. Lois Jack Swanson, former instructor in psychology and family relations at Glendale college, has been hired by the Board to teach psychology. Mrs. Swanson received her M.A. and Ph. D. degrees from the University of Iowa.

Present at the July 8 Board meeting were Robert E. Russell, president; Dr. Ernest E. Lyder, vice president; Jordan E. Duna way, secretary; N. R. Kuhn and Melvin Allen.

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Bank Of America Pays \$30,000 For Parking Lot

Realizing the need for a parking lot for the convenience of its customers, Bank of America, at a cost of \$30,000, has purchased a 60' by 130' lot adjoining the Torrance branch, according to Dean L. Sears, manager.

The lot will be surfaced to provide excellent parking facilities throughout the year. Work will begin in the near future.

The lot will be of sufficient size to accommodate the bank's customers.

The move is the first in the direction of private off-street parking facilities since they were recommended by the parking committee of the Torrance Chamber of Commerce at the time parking meters were "protested out" of Torrance.

Sears is a member of the Chamber of Commerce board of directors, and while the city has been considering leveling and adding several downtown lots to provide off-street parking, no action has been taken to date.

American Legion Post To Install Officers Tonight

Bert S. Crossland No. 170 the American Legion will hold a special meeting tonight in the C.I.O. hall for installation of officers of the new year. The meeting is called for 8 p. m., with the executive committee meeting at 7:30 p. m.

Wilmington post No. 287 will install the officers and refreshments will be served.

Those to be installed are: D. A. Murphy, commander; John A. Strickland, first vice commander; Edith I. White, second vice commander; James Burd, finance officer; Howard McDonald, chaplain; S. A. Whitling, historian; George Kobayashi, service officer; W. B. Dymond, sergeant-at-arms; Sam Munesato, assistant sergeant-at-arms; Tom Watson, George Thompson and Eugene Held, executive committee.

400 New Type Desks Arrive For High School

Four hundred of the newest type of students' desks were being delivered to Torrance high school this week, purchased by the Redondo Union High School Board of Trustees which will operate the high school until unification of all Torrance schools into one district.

The desks are movable, desk-chair types and have been purchased from a nationally known school supply house, according to Lloyd W. Waller, principal of Torrance High.

Custodians have been cleaning and waxing floors and woodwork to make ready for the fall term, Waller said.

"We are attempting to secure machinery and motors to open and offer motor and shop classes." Principal Waller declared. "This will be something new for Torrance."

Teachers' desks will start to arrive this week, he said.

"Already the buildings, which were in a bad state of repair due to neglect by Los Angeles, have given up the appearance of ghost houses and resemble, in some degree, school buildings," he said.

Sponsoring New Dance Program

Torrance Area Youth Band, Inc., will sponsor weekly Saturday night teen-age dances in the Civic auditorium starting Aug. 2, according to an agreement reached with the City Council Monday afternoon.

The city will receive 30 percent of the gate for the dances, under the arrangement. The group was authorized to conduct concessions in the auditorium.

No pass-outs from the auditorium will be allowed, and attendance will be restricted to teenagers.

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